THE ADMIRAL'S FLAG PUZZLE

THE FAMOUS RIDDLE BY THE OLD BISHOP OF OXFORD.

AS showing how great men, in their later years, have maintained an inherent love for puzzles and tricks, which doubtless had much to do with the strengthening of the mind in their youthful training, the following famous riddle by the Bishop of Oxford is worthy of careful study. It shows how as many as thirty-two familiar subjects may be described in one single object, without giving the slightest clew to its identity:

I have a large box, two lids, two caps, two musical instruments and a large number of articles which a carpenter cannot dispense with. I have always about me a couple of good fish and a great number of small size; two lofty trees and four branches of trees, some fine flowers and the fruit of an indigenous plant. I have two playful animals and a vast number of smaller ones; also a fine stag and a number of whips without handles.

I have two halls of worship, some weapons of warfare and innumerable weather-cocks, the steps of a hotel, the House of Commons on the eve of a division, two students or scholars and ten Spanish gentlemen to wait upon their neighbors, a rude bed, the highest part of a building, a roadway over water, leaves of grass, a pair of rainbows, a boat, a stately pillar, a part of a buckle, several social assemblies, part of the equipments of a saddle horse, a pair of implements matched by another pair of implements much used by blacksmiths and several means of fastening.

THE PUZZLE OF THE CRYPTOGRAM LEFT ON THE DOOR.

HERE is a capital puzzle which will be appreciated by such as in the past have enjoyed presenting their friends with the time-honored poser of the father who sent a note down to his son, who was in the parlor, saying: "If the B rot put ; If the H . putting ." To which the smart youth promptly replied: "How can I put . with such a — der?" To say nothing about the well-known query: "Have you read A ll?"

In the following puzzle, one young lady had called upon a friend to take her out to lunch, but, after waiting in vain for an hour, she pins a cryptogramic but laconic note on the wall and sets out alone.

For the benefit of such as do not parlez Francais, I will mention that the first two letters G a convey a little message in French, but the three numerals express her sentiments in good English, while the postscript is a capital joke upon her name, which her friend will readily interpret. This is not an easy problem, but it is one of exceptional interest, and it is safe to say that the skilful person who gets the best answer within two weeks will well deserve the $5 prize for these three puzzles, based upon the well-known principle of cryptogramic charades.

WHY DAMOCLES SWORD WAS CURVED.

IN this absurd joke, which was perpetrated by Damocles many thousands of years ago, but the real point of which seems to have escaped our historians, it is told by Cicero that Dionysius placed Damocles in the king's chair at a banquet and hoped to teach him a valuable lesson and curb his discontent by showing him that a heavy sword was suspended over his head by a single horse-hair. Damocles was the court jester, and instead of showing his terror, asked a quaint conundrum, which caused much merriment.

He asked: "Why is the blade of that sword made curved instead of straight?"

The wiseacres gave scientific answers to the question, trying to explain that the curved blade gave more strength to the blow, etc., etc. After they had all given an answer to the question the king asked Damocles for his own explanation, when he replied: "It is made that shape so as to fit the scabbard, which is curved!"

CAN YOU MAKE OUT WHAT THIS CRYPTOGRAM MEANS. IF SO YOU CAN MAKE $5 IN CASH.

Ga.
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P.S.

THE DEWEY COMMITTEE NEED NOT WORRY.

THE problem as to how many different committees could be appointed from a selection of ten officials and twenty-five leading citizens, without permitting any two committees to be made up with exactly the same membership, as was mentioned, exercised the original members of the Dewey Committee lest the number of members would have to be increased so as not to conflict with that resolution.

But they really need not have concerned themselves over the matter, as several of our clever puzzlists have shown that 6,375,600 different sub-committees might have been appointed without any two being alike. Of course this must have been a great relief to their minds.

The problem is a very pretty one, pertaining to the permutation of numbers, but quite different from the ordinary illustrations which deal only with one class of letters or numbers.

HOW DID THE FOX GET THE CORN ACROSS THE RIVER?

WE know all about the troubles of the farmer who had to ferry the fox, the goose and the corn across a stream in a boat which was only large enough to hold two, and so many trips had to be made to prevent the fox from eating the goose or the goose from getting at the corn, but on the return trip there was no boat, so the man had to swim over with the goose, and the fox had to carry the corn; but as there were twelve ears of corn in the bag, and the fox could only cross the stream with three ears at a time the problem is to tell just how many times that fox had to cross the stream.

ANSWER TO THE FIRE ESCAPE PROBLEM.

IN this practical problem it was told that in conformity to the law, which requires that every room in a hotel must be provided with a rope, or fire escape, a Mr. Biggs had invented an escape which consisted of a rope with an iron bucket at each end, running over a free pulley, so that when one goes down, the other comes up. A fire having occurred at a hotel, it so transpired that every one escaped except the night watchman and his family, consisting of man, wife, baby and dog, weighing altogether 350 pounds.

Now, the Biggs patent fire escape will only permit of thirty pounds being lowered freely at one time, otherwise it would dangerously jar the occupants of the bucket unless a counterweight is placed in the other bucket. So it will be found that the 30 pound baby had to be lowered first, and then becomes useful as a counterpoise for the dog, who in turn assists the mistress of the house, etc., somewhat after the famous story of the cat that ate the malt which lay in the house that Jack built.

The problem was to guess the respective weights of the family and dog, and show how they successfully escaped. Many solvers guessed the correct weights as being: Baby, 30 pounds; dog, 60 pounds; wife, 90 pounds, and man, 210 pounds, but others gave various weights, and methods which would necessitate precocious knowledge on the part of the baby and the intelligence of a trained dog to enable them to get in and out of the buckets and to exchange places unaided by the man or his wife, which Professor Biggs says he did not contemplate when he invented the fire escape. The best and first correct answer came from Dolly Combes, No. 24 Overbrook avenue, Trenton, N. J., and was as follows:

1. Lower the baby, 30 pounds.
2. Lower dog, 60 pounds, and bring up baby, 30 pounds.
3. Wife, 90 pounds, goes down, and up comes dog, 60 pounds.
4. Lower baby, 30 pounds.
5. Lower dog, 60 pounds, and bring up baby, 30 pounds.
6. Lower baby, 30 pounds.
7. Lower man, 210 pounds, and bring up rest of family, 180 pounds.
8. Lower baby, 30 pounds.
9. Lower dog, 60 pounds, and bring up baby, 30 pounds.
10. Lower baby, 30 pounds.
11. Lower wife, 90 pounds, and bring up dog, 60 pounds.
12. Lower dog, 60 pounds, and send up baby, 30 pounds.
13. Lower baby, 30 pounds, and the entire family has reached the ground in safety.

NO. 5. THE WHAT-HAPPENED SERIES.

Cut Up the Figures and Rearrange and Paste Them as Your Fancy Suggests. The Most Comical Conception Will Be Rewarded with a Prize of $5. Your Picture Must Represent What Happened When the Sailors Caught Sight of the Admiral. All the Figures in the Original Picture Must Be Used in the Re-established Creation.

THE PRIZE WINNER

MISS ELLEN V. Powers, of No. 25 Dallius stree Albany, N. Y., is the Winner of No. 4 of the What-Happened Series. The Prize-Winning Picture is reproduced herewith.

FOR the benefit of the country at large, and for Young America in particular, I present this week a little study, based upon the Admiral's flag, and will preface the same by a few words of explanation, to give a better understanding of the patriotic display of bunting which is to be seen everywhere, as I find that the design of the Admiral's flag is not generally known.

The rank of American Admiral was created in 1866, for Farragut, and abolished at his death, so, for nearly thirty years there has been no use for the Admiral's flag, until by special act of Congress the rank has been restored once more in honor of Admiral Dewey.

A blue flag, with four white stars, represents the Admiral's ensign; three stars for a Vice-Admiral, two stars for a Rear-Admiral and the lone star for a Commodore. The flag should be square and of the regulation navy blue color, but, as patriotism will not be curbed by such conventionalities on an occasion like the present one, everything of a bluish color is being pressed into service to do honor to the hero of Manila, so flags of every shape and hue are thrown to the breeze, most generally with stars galore, without any reference to their proper positions in the firmament.

This week's puzzle shows how Young America, carried away with enthusiasm, is waving an Admiral's flag of home manufacture. It looks as if papa's blue flannel coat, or one of mamma's blue skirts had been sacrificed.

The patriotism is true-blue, but the shape of the flag and the arrangement of the stars might possibly be improved upon, so we will take it as a puzzle to familiarise our young friends with the ensign which now makes such a glorious epoch in our nation's history.

The problem is to cut the flag into the fewest possible number of pieces, which, without any waste, will enable you to fit them together so as to make a perfect Admiral's flag with the four stars in their proper position, which is in the form of a square diamond. That is, with the four stars arranged like a square, with one corner at the top, within a perfectly square flag.

The usual prize of $5 will be given for the best answer received within two weeks, showing how the feat can be performed by cutting the flag into the fewest pieces. I would suggest that puzzlists can show their answers better with the aid of a drawing, which need not be carefully executed, than by cutting up the flag, as many as they prefer to keep a collection of the puzzles.

SAM LOYD, New York Journal.

MAKE AN ADMIRAL'S FLAG IN THE FEWEST CUTS.

THE TRIUMPHANT DEWEY PARADE PUZZLE.

WHETHER Columbia's fete in honor of America's hero who returns in the good ship Olympia rivals in splendor the honors conferred upon the Olympian heroes some thousands of years ago is a pretty problem for some of our mathematicians and historians to figure out.

We read that "at one of the great fetes which were held every four years at Olympia, eight and twenty squadron of horse, each 150 strong, preceded by thrice eight and twenty battalions of horse, and spear, 500 men to each battalion, and followed by 2,000 maidens in chariots, escorted a hundred visitors in the Olympic games to the great temple, where they were crowned with laurel wreaths."

The Greek grand stands would probably accommodate some 50,000 spectators, but as no mention is made of the number of cheap $100 windows along the route or whether they rented soap boxes to stand on at a drachma each, we will assume that we beat them out at the rate of ten to one at least in the number of spectators, but how about the actual number of men in the procession?

Based upon the above statement of the account of the Olympian fete as quoted, as compared with the official reports which will be given of the parade, what will be the actual difference in number of men? It is more of a puzzle that one would at first suppose.

WILL THE DEWEY PARADE THIS WEEK BE GREATER THAN THE PROCESSIONS AT THE ANCIENT OLYMPIAN GAMES.